

28 June 2022, International LGBTI+ Liberation Day

OFFICIAL STATEMENT





The right to walk down the street without fear, without being insulted or attacked for being who we are or for holding hands with our partner. The right for our workplace to be a safe space without our sexual orientation becoming grounds for discrimination. The right to express ourselves and show ourselves as we are in the family and education settings and in leisure venues. The right to have our gender identity and family diversity acknowledged by the authorities... All these rights are not rights which have been given to everyone. LGBTI+ groups have had to fight for decades to achieve them, both in our country and around the world, and today they are still not fully guaranteed.

Social protests advocating the rights of LGBTI+ people, which began with the Stonewall revolt in 1969 in New York and in the 1970s in our country, have played a part in building a fairer country by raising social awareness and driving legal protection of human rights. Act 11/2014 of 10 October to safeguard the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and to eliminate homophobia, biphobia and transphobia was a turning point in shaping LGBTI+ public policies in Catalonia. It also made it possible to help and support people whose rights have been infringed by rolling out the Integrated LGBTI+ Care Services Network across the country.

More recently, Act 19/2020 of 30 December on equal treatment and non-discrimination stepped up measures to deliver real and effective protection against any form or act of discrimination or intolerance on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. The future Catalan trans* law, currently being drafted, will continue on the pathway towards fully safeguarding rights. The more rights, the more justice, the more democracy. New rights do not detract from other rights achieved and nor do they erase anything or anyone.

All public authorities have a duty to uphold equality laws in all areas and enforce them to the fullest extent possible. And even more so today when confronted with hate speech against difference and the far right's challenge to the rights which have been achieved. Speaking about these groups at the Catalonia International Prize awards ceremony on 27 April this year, Judith Butler remarked: "What vision of the nation is it that can be threatened by those who pursue equality, freedom, justice, the end of wars, a future without violence, or the right to walk down the street without fear?"



In Catalonia we will once again say as many times as necessary “They shall not pass!” Now more than ever the country’s organisations and public authorities will champion the right of people to live in freedom and we will strive to expedite a social change which will only be possible if feminist public policies are transinclusive, if LGBTI+ policies are feminist, and if all these policies are also antiracist and sensitive to age and disability.

The rights of LGBTI+ people are part of the shared struggle to uphold the right of all people to live free from discrimination and violence. Whether we are cis, trans* or non-binary and whatever our sexual orientation, this struggle must always speak to us because rights are exercised and safeguarded collectively.

Catalan Government backing for the demands of National LGBTI Council member organisations

To mark 28 June, International LGBTI+ Pride or Liberation Day, the Catalan Government once again confirms its commitment to championing the rights of LGBTI+ people and calls on the public at large to join in the events and demonstrations which are to be held throughout the country with absolute #Pride.

Likewise, the Catalan Government takes up the demands of the member organisations of the National LGBTI Council, the collegiate body set up as a higher level of public participation in the rights and duties of LGBTI+ people and also as a consultative body for Catalan authorities working in this field, notwithstanding the duties and powers of other agencies or organisations as established by law.

These demands are as follows:

—Fix the difficulties still experienced by trans* people in the Civil Registry Office in changing their names and by same-sex parent families in registering their children.

—Urge the Spanish Government to give special consideration to the right to asylum and protection of LGBTI+ people who are vulnerable in their home countries and to those who have been unable to regularise their administrative situation, and also ensure the Catalan Government plays a key role in receiving LGBTI+ people arriving in the country while recognising their particular needs.



—Continue to move forward in specific training for teachers on diversity and LGBTI+ issues, including in physical education and sports, to foster the creation of safe and trusting spaces for LGBTI+ students.

—Equip the Integrated LGBTI+ Care Services (SAI) with more resources and run campaigns to raise awareness of them with a view to enhancing the help and support they deliver and their actions in cases of LGTBTI-phobia.

—Safeguard the right to assisted reproduction for lesbian women and trans* men and shorten waiting lists in this field. Continue with the decentralisation of the Transit Service by gradually setting up a functional network of regional Transit units in primary care and community healthcare in Catalonia which attends to trans* people.

—Improve access to information for LGBTI+ people with sensory or physical disabilities with equal rights.

—Set up and manage inclusive and safe spaces for older LGBTI+ people and promote training for people working with older and dependent people.

—Be mindful of the countryside where the number of LGBTI+ people is less visible and dispersed, and assist with providing meeting places, bolster support services for these groups and promote activities by local authorities which help to raise their profile.

—Have a Catalan trans* bill ready to be discussed in and passed by the Catalan Parliament.